

the State to pay the owners half the value of a slave, executed for a capital offence, was predicated upon the policy of inducing owners to surrender their slaves when accused of capital offences to the civil authorities for trial. In the cases before us it appears that the owners and their agents were active in surrendering these slaves to the civil authorities.

We believe the State is not less morally nor legally bound to pay for these slaves than if they had been regularly tried and executed. When they were taken into the custody of the civil authorities, they were without the power and control of their owners. It was by no fault of theirs that these slaves were illegally executed. The State was bound to safely keep and return to the owners these slaves, if not convicted; or in case of their conviction and execution, one-half their value. As these slaves were never executed according to law, the owners might with much propriety demand their full value, as they were destroyed while in the custody of the State, by an act of violence against which the State was bound to guard. But the owners are fully satisfied they would have been convicted and executed had they been brought to trial; the owners are, therefore, content to receive one-half their value. Were the owners permitted to sue the State, upon strictly legal principles, it is believed they would recover the full value of the slaves. We therefore think the State ought to pay one-half their value—all of which is respectfully reported.

On motion of Mr. Paschal the rule was suspended, reports taken up and made the order of the day for the 9th day of January, 1858.

On motion of Mr. Britton, the Senate adjourned until Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

MONDAY, December 28, 1857.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by the Chaplain—roll called—quorum present.

The Journal of Thursday was read and adopted.

Mr. Grimes presented the memorial of L. G. Clapper; referred to the committee on Claims and Accounts.

Mr. Graham presented the memorial of John C. Watrous; referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Russell, chairman of the committee on Engrossed Bills,

reported a bill to incorporate the Western Texas, Life, Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of the City of San Antonio, and

A bill to incorporate the Indianolia Railroad Company ; correctly engrossed.

Mr. Taylor, of Houston, chairman of the committee on Enrolled Bills, reported a bill for the relief of Abel Morgan.

A bill for the relief of Eli H. Page.

A bill supplemental to an act to incorporate Colorado College.

A bill for the relief of Wm. H. Ray.

A bill for the relief of Mathias Ward, and

A bill for the relief of the heirs of George Brinlee, correctly enrolled, properly signed, and the first two were presented to the Governor on the 24th inst., and the others on the 26th inst.

Mr. Erath introduced a bill to incorporate the Meridian Male and Female Academy, and

A bill to incorporate the Tryon Female Seminary at Waco; read first and second times and referred to the committee on Education.

Mr. Taylor, of Fannin, moved a reconsideration of the vote taken on Thursday last, upon the final passage of a bill to change the name of Taylorville ; carried.

On motion of Mr. Throckmorton the bill was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Britton the Senate adjourned, until to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY, December 29th, 1857.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by the chaplain—roll called—quorum present.

The Journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

Mr. Britton presented the petition of Cecilio Babero, Juan Sais, Martin Hinojosa, Feliz Vela, Rodrigo Hinojosa and Ignacio Gonzalez, asking first class headright certificates ; referred to the committee on Private Land Claims.

Mr. Martin made the following report :